

SOME SCOTTISH MICROLEPIDOPTERA IN 1983

By K. P. BLAND*

The undermentioned microlepidoptera worthy of special mention were noted in 1983.

Trifurculagriseella Wolff, 1957. A sixth British specimen (and the second Scottish specimen) of this elusive insect was found by Mr. I. C. Christie on 2.vii.1983 near Ben Hogh, Isle of Coll (O. S. Grid ref. NM1758; V.c.103). It was taken flying amongst mixed herbs and proved to be a male. It was not obviously associated with any particular species of plant but *Lotus corniculatus* was abundant in the immediate vicinity.

Diplodoma herminata (Geoffroy, 1785). Previous published records of this psychid from Scotland all seem to have emanated from Perthshire and Sutherland so it was interesting to discover it in several places in southern Scotland. On 12.iv.1983 a case was found at Aiky Wood, Hoardweel, Berwickshire (O.S. Grid ref. NT7961; V.c.81) while on 26.vi.1983 a case was found on Inchcailloch Island on Loch Lomond, Stirlingshire (O.S. Grid ref. NS4090; V.c.86) and two days later several cases were found in Mugdock Wood, Dumbartonshire (O.S. Grid ref. NS5476; V.c.99). In all three localities the species was associated with the trunks of mature oak trees.

Phyllonorycter trifasciella (Haworth, 1828). The only previous published record of this species from Scotland seems to be from South Aberdeenshire (V.c.92). It is probably more widely distributed than this solitary record implies as the following finds suggests. Mines in *Lonicera* collected at Arniston Mains, Midlothian (O.S. Grid ref. NT3360; V.c.83) on 20.iii.1983 yielded imagines of this species on 28.iv. & 1.v.: Similar mines collected in Boltonmuir Wood, East Lothian (O.S. Grid ref. NT5168; V.c.82) on 12.iv.1983, emerged 6.v.1983: Mines in *Lonicera* collected on the Isle of Coll. (O.S. Grid ref. NM2360 & NM2662; V.c.103) on 2. & 10.viii.1983 are presumably also referable to this species.

Phyllonorycter quinqueguttella (Stainton, 1851). This gracilariid is also represented in Scotland through a single published record – this time from Easterness (V.c.96). It also occurs in the Inner Hebrides (V.c.103) and Kirkcudbrightshire (V.c.73). Mines in *Salix repens* collected on 2.viii.1983 at Loch a' Mhill Aird, Toraston, Isle of Coll (O.S. Grid ref. NM2360) yielded this species. A single imago emerged on 15.viii.1983 while three further imagines emerged (presumably prematurely due to being indoors) in xii.1983! Mines were also found, although not reared, in *Salix repens* by Dr. R. Knill-Jones at Southernness Dunes (O. S. Grid ref. NX9754) on 11. vii.1982.

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Glyphipterix schoenicolella Boyd, 1858. The Isle of Rhum appears to be the sole recorded outpost of this species in Scotland. It is thus nice to report that both Mr. I. C. Christie and myself have, in the last two years, independently found this species flying in abundance on the neighbouring Isle of Coll (O. S. Grid ref. NM2662; V.c.103).

Argyresthia sorbiella (Treitschke, 1833). This rather uncommon species was met with on three occasions in 1983 in Stirlingshire (V.c.86). Specimens were taken in the Old Manse Wood, Balmaha (O. S. Grid ref. NS4191) on 25. & 27.vi.1983 and further north at light at Ross Point (O. S. Grid ref. NS3795) on 28.vi.1983. It seems previously to have been taken in Scotland only in South Aberdeenshire and Perthshire.

Scrobipalpa murinella (Herrich-Schäffer, 1854). Recorded as Scottish from specimens taken on the Isle of Rhum (V.c.104), the larvae of this species, which mine the outer leaves of *Antennaria dioica*, have now been discovered on the nearby Isle of Coll (V.c.103). Feeding larvae were obtained from the Loch a' Mhill Aird area (O.S. Grid ref. NM2360) on 2.viii.1983.

Caryocolum vicinella (Douglas, 1851). The two previously published and widely separated Scottish records of this species from V.c.91 and V.c.106 suggest that it is a widespread but rare coastal species. In keeping with this, it also occurs at St. Abbs, Berwickshire (O.S. Grid ref. NT9167; V.c.81) from where larvae mining the terminal shoot-stems of *Silene maritima* on 12.iv.1983 yielded imagines on 24.vii.1983. Imagines have also been taken on Ailsa Craig, Ayrshire (O.S. Grid ref. NX0299; V.c.75) by Mr. I. C. Christie and Dr. R. Knill-Jones on 11.ix.1982.

Strophedra nitidana (Fabricius, 1794). A specimen of this small tortricid was taken while sunning itself on a leaf in the afternoon sunshine on the island of Inchcailloch in Loch Lomond, Stirlingshire (O. S. Grid ref. NS4090; V.c.86) on 26.vi.1983. This appears to be the only recent Scottish record for this species, although old records exist for Stirlingshire, Lanarkshire and Berwickshire.

Lobesia reliquana (Hübner, 1825). A specimen of this beautiful little moth was taken in an M.V. light-trap on the night of the 28/29.vi.1983 at Ross Point, Rowardennan, Stirlingshire (O.S. Grid ref. NS3795; V.c.86). This appears to be only the second time this species has been recorded in Scotland. It was first discovered by the late Mr. D. L. Coates at Aberfoyle (Christie & Christie, 1982). Meyrick (1928) gives 'Britain to Perth' for its distribution but the provenance of the Scottish records is unknown.

Pterophorus tridactyla (Linnaeus, 1758). A parasitized larva and an empty pupal case of this species was found by the author on Thyme at St. Abbs, Berwickshire (O.S. Grid ref. NT9167; V.c.81) on 12.iv.1983. On 19.vi.1983, Mr. I. C. Christie took an imago in Wigtonshire (V.c.74) about one mile north of Portpatrick (O.S.

Grid ref. NX0055). These records indicate that this species probably extends all round the Scottish coast and that the previous records from the Inner Hebrides (Rhum, Sanday & Coll) and Aberdeenshire are not isolated outposts.

Acknowledgements

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References

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A SPRING GENERATION SCARCE CHOCOLATE-TIP: CLOSTERA ANACHORETA D. & S. AT DUNGENESS. – To the surprise and great delight of the assembled company, a single *Clostera anachoreta* was taken at mercury vapour light amongst *Salix* on the shingle at Dungeness, Kent, during the British Entomological and Natural History Society field meeting on 2nd June 1984. The insect was male, and entered the trap at approximately 22.00hrs. B.S.T. where it remained.

It is worth noting that no migrant species were recorded at any of the nine lights which were run there until just past midnight when rain began to fall, and it seems likely, therefore, that this individual had bred in the area. The species has been previously recorded at Dungeness, and larvae have in the past been obtained from *Salix* there and bred through, with adults being released later in the year. This attempt to bolster-up the Dungeness population appears to have been less than successful, as the species has been rarely seen since 1980, and it is pleasing, therefore, to record the continuing presence of such an uncommon moth. – C. W. PLANT, Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, Stratford, London, E15 4LZ and P. A. SOKOLOFF, 4 Steep Close, Green Street Green, Orpington, Kent. [This appears to be only the second example of a spring brood adult *anachoreta* taken in the wild in Britain, the first having occurred at Bradwell-on-Sea, Essex on 9th May 1976 and recorded by A. J. Dewick (in *Ent. Rec.*, 91: 284). – J.M.C.-H.]